

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
receiving encoded data through a first digital connection;
processing said encoded data in response to a request from a user to obtain a plurality of signals; and
transmitting said plurality of signals to a display device through a second connection.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a computer system through said first digital connection.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a server operated by a service provider through said first digital connection.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first digital connection is an external bus connection, which supports IEEE 1394 serial bus standard.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first digital connection is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said encoded data further comprises video data.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said encoded data further comprises audio data.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises storing said encoded data in a storage module.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said storage module is a dedicated audio/video capable hard disk storage unit.
10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises:
- decoding said encoded data to obtain decoded data; and
 - converting said decoded data into said plurality of signals.
11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request from a computer system through said first digital connection.
12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request via an input signal from a remote control device handled by said user.
13. The method according to claim 10, wherein said decoding further comprises:
- storing video data of said decoded data in a frame buffer together with graphics data associated with said video data; and
 - transmitting audio data of said decoded data to a converter module.
14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said converting further comprises:
- retrieving said video data and said graphics data from said frame buffer;
 - and

converting said audio data, said video data, and said graphics data into said plurality of signals.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein each signal of said plurality of signals is an analog signal.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein said second connection is an analog connection.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data through a digital content connection within said first digital connection.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request from a computer system through a digital control connection within said first digital connection.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said encoded data is audio/video data in a compressed format.

20. The method according to claim 13, wherein said video data is stored in said frame buffer for a predetermined period of time prior to being transmitted to said display device.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein said display device is a television set.

22. A system comprising:
a storage module to receive encoded data through a first digital connection;

a decoder module to process said encoded data in response to a request from a user; and

a converter module to transmit a plurality of signals obtained from said encoded data to a display device through a second connection.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage module further receives said encoded data from a computer system through said first digital connection.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage module further receives said encoded data from a server operated by a service provider through said first digital connection.

25. The system according to claim 22, wherein said first digital connection is an external bus connection, which supports IEEE 1394 serial bus standard.

26. The system according to claim 22, wherein said first digital connection is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection.

27. The system according to claim 22, wherein said encoded data further comprises video data.

28. The system according to claim 22, wherein said encoded data further comprises audio data.

29. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage module further stores said encoded data.

30. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage module is a dedicated audio/video capable hard disk storage unit.

31. The system according to claim 22, wherein said decoder module further decodes said encoded data in response to said request to obtain decoded data.
32. The system according to claim 22, wherein said decoder module further receives said request from a computer system through said first digital connection.
33. The system according to claim 22, further comprising a receiver to receive said request via an input signal from a remote control device handled by said user.
34. The system according to claim 31, wherein said decoder module further stores video data of said decoded data together with graphics data associated with said video data in a frame buffer and transmits audio data of said decoded data to said converter module.
35. The system according to claim 34, wherein said converter module further retrieves said video data and said graphics data from said frame buffer and converts said audio data, said video data, and said graphics data into said plurality of signals.
36. The system according to claim 22, wherein each signal of said plurality of signals is an analog signal.
37. The system according to claim 22, wherein said second connection is an analog connection.

38. The system according to claim 22, wherein said storage module receives said encoded data through a digital content connection within said first digital connection.
39. The system according to claim 22, wherein said decoder module further receives said request from a computer system through a digital control connection within said first digital connection.
40. The system according to claim 22, wherein said encoded data is audio/video data in a compressed format.
41. The system according to claim 22, wherein said video data is stored in said frame buffer for a predetermined period of time prior to being transmitted to said display device.
42. The system according to claim 22, wherein said display device is a television set.
43. A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, cause the system to perform a method comprising:
- receiving encoded data through a first digital connection;
 - processing said encoded data in response to a request from a user to obtain a plurality of signals; and
 - transmitting said plurality of signals to a display device through a second connection.
44. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a computer system through said first digital connection.

45. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data from a server operated by a service provider through said first digital connection.
46. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said first digital connection is an external bus connection, which supports IEEE 1394 serial bus standard.
47. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said first digital connection is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection.
48. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said encoded data further comprises video data.
49. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said encoded data further comprises audio data.
50. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said processing further comprises storing said encoded data in a storage module.
51. The computer readable medium according to claim 50, wherein said storage module is a dedicated audio/video capable hard disk storage unit.
52. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said processing further comprises:
- decoding said encoded data to obtain decoded data; and
 - converting said decoded data into said plurality of signals.

53. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request from a computer system through said first digital connection.
54. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request via an input signal from a remote control device handled by said user.
55. The computer readable medium according to claim 52, wherein said decoding further comprises:
- storing video data of said decoded data in a frame buffer together with graphics data associated with said video data; and
 - transmitting audio data of said decoded data to a converter module.
56. The computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein said converting further comprises:
- retrieving said video data and said graphics data from said frame buffer;
 - and
 - converting said audio data, said video data, and said graphics data into said plurality of signals.
57. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein each signal of said plurality of signals is an analog signal.
58. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said second connection is an analog connection.
59. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said encoded data through a digital content connection within said first digital connection.

60. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said processing further comprises receiving said request from a computer system through a digital control connection within said first digital connection.

61. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said encoded data is audio/video data in a compressed format.

62. The computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein said video data is stored in said frame buffer for a predetermined period of time prior to being transmitted to said display device.

63. The computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein said display device is a television set.

64. A system comprising:

a storage system to receive encoded data through a first digital connection and to process said encoded data in response to a request from a user to obtain a plurality of analog signals; and

an analog display device coupled to said storage system to receive said plurality of analog signals through a second analog connection.

65. The system according to claim 64, further comprising a computer system coupled to said storage system to transmit said encoded data through said first digital connection.

66. The system according to claim 64, wherein said storage system receives said encoded data from a server operated by a service provider through said first digital connection.

67. The system according to claim 64, wherein said first digital connection is an external bus connection, which supports IEEE 1394 serial bus standard.
68. The system according to claim 64, wherein said first digital connection is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection.
69. The system according to claim 64, wherein said encoded data further comprises video data.
70. The system according to claim 64, wherein said encoded data further comprises audio data.
71. The system according to claim 64, wherein said storage system further stores said encoded data, decodes said encoded data in response to said request to obtain decoded data, and converts said decoded data into said plurality of analog signals.
72. The system according to claim 65, wherein said computer system further receives said request from said user and transmits said request to said storage system through said first digital connection.
73. The system according to claim 64, wherein said storage system further receives said request via an input signal from a remote control device handled by said user.
74. The system according to claim 64, wherein said storage system further receives said encoded data through a digital content connection within said first digital connection.

75. The system according to claim 72, wherein said computer system further transmits said request to said storage system through a digital control connection within said first digital connection.

76. The system according to claim 64, wherein said encoded data is audio/video data in a compressed format.

77. The system according to claim 64, wherein said analog display device is a television set.

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